

Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1871.

THE COLLECTORSHIP.

The President has appointed Hon. John W. Forney Collector of the port of Philadelphia. Mr. Forney has accepted, contrary to the expectation of all his friends, and the Senate will undoubtedly confirm the appointment.

Mr. Forney has accepted, contrary to the expectation of all his friends, and the Senate will undoubtedly confirm the appointment. If this were merely a question of providing a thoroughly competent Collector for the port of Philadelphia the appointment of Mr. Forney would call for nothing but congratulations.

But, unfortunately for the President at least, there are other considerations involved, which cannot be overlooked by those who see in the blundering policy of the administration one of the greatest dangers, not only to the Republican party, but to the nation at large.

Two years of the worst possible mistakes in the distribution of the Federal patronage have not taught the President wisdom, and he blunders as badly now as he did when he first went into office. That the new Collector will perform the duties of his office in an eminently satisfactory manner is certain, and we are safe in saying that his appointment will give satisfaction to every one except, perhaps, to the individual most interested—himself.

Mr. Forney is a man of very great ability, and as a politician and an editor he has labored earnestly for the success of the Republican party. The President could scarcely have fixed upon a better person to succeed Mr. Moore, and yet the acceptance of the Collectorship of the port of Philadelphia does Mr. Forney more credit than his appointment does the President.

Few men in the Republican party have worked harder for it than Mr. Forney, and few have deserved more liberal rewards at the hands of those who dispense rewards and honors at Washington. That the Collectorship of the port of Philadelphia is an office that will confer honor upon the gentleman who has accepted it few men in or out of the Republican party will be willing to admit, and it must be confessed that Mr. Forney would have consulted his own dignity more if he had refused any favors at the hands of the administration unless they were in some degree proportionate to his personal and political deserts.

When President Grant went into office two years ago, Mr. Forney was prominently mentioned as likely to obtain a Cabinet position, or at least one of the most desirable of the foreign missions. He was not only one of the foremost men in the Republican party, but he had been an ardent advocate of the election of Grant upon the stump and in the columns of his two influential papers.

The President, however, distributed the valuable offices in his gift according to a plan of his own, and Mr. Forney was apparently never even thought of. For two years the President has refused to be governed by the advice of others, and has obstinately persisted in conferring the honors in his gift upon men who can give no influence to his administration and who can do nothing to consolidate the strength of the Republican party.

gratified his best friends if he had displayed an equal amount of independence in the present instance. President Grant's performances need criticism—although perhaps of another kind—just as much as did those of Johnson, and the Press has hitherto displayed no hesitation in speaking out boldly when there was occasion for it.

It will be a real misfortune both to the President and to the Republican party if the fact that its editor is Collector of the port of Philadelphia should interfere with its independent utterances in the future; for the next two years are likely to be trying ones for the Republican party, and plain speaking on the part of the newspapers will be more than ever needed.

Taking all the facts of the case into consideration, this appointment cannot be considered other than as an insult to Mr. Forney—an insult that the President would have been slow to offer if he had the slightest idea how to manage men.

It is as bad a blunder as any he has made in the distribution of offices since he has been in the Executive chair; and Mr. Forney's acceptance, prompted doubtless as it was by a sincere desire to aid the administration in getting fairly upon its feet again before the next Presidential campaign begins, does him more credit than the appointment does the President.

AN APOLOGY TO MR. HAGER.

Mr. HAGER must go off the black list. He yesterday made a personal explanation in the House of Representatives to the effect that he had always been opposed to the commission bills, and that he had been misrepresented by THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Of course, we believe Mr. Hager, and apologize most sincerely for having placed him in a false position, and for having done anything to damage his future political prospects. This is the third apology of this kind we have been compelled to make, and if any of the other members of the Committee on Municipal Corporations have been misrepresented in our columns, we would be pleased to have them speak at once, and all at once, so that we may save time, space, and printer's ink by making a single apology do for the whole batch.

The members of the committee who did not sign Mr. Johnston's negative report, and who have not explained their position with regard to the commission bills, are Messrs. Parsons, Duffy, Wiley, Lamon, Mooney, Meek, and McGowan. The matter is now getting narrowed down to a fine point, and it seems scarcely possible but that some of the above-named gentlemen did advocate the bills, and did endeavor to have them reported favorably to the House, so that a simple majority might act upon them.

The original constitution of the committee was sixteen, and it was certainly believed at Harrisburg that the majority of this number were in favor of the bills—it was said that the committee stood ten in favor and six against—For Speaker Webb thought it necessary to add six new members to the committee in order to secure a negative report. Now, there were ten members who did not sign Mr. Johnston's negative report, which was at least a strong piece of circumstantial evidence in favor of the correctness of the rumor which prevailed previous to the enlargement of the committee.

Three of these ten have denied that they were in favor of the bills, which would have made the original committee stand nine opposed and seven in favor of the bills. If this was the actual situation, why was it necessary for Speaker Webb to add six new members to the committee in order to obtain a negative report? Will any member of the House or of the Committee on Municipal Corporations oblige the citizens of Philadelphia by making an explanation, personal or otherwise, upon this knotty point?

THE TAX ON TEA AND COFFEE. A REMONSTRANCE from the American Free-trade League against the repeal of the duty on tea and coffee was presented in both branches of Congress yesterday. The foes of American industry clearly display their disregard of the interests of the masses in this opposing the abrogation of duties upon products which are not produced in this country.

THE DESPATCHES from France indicate that M. Thiers will be vigorously sustained by the provinces, and thus enabled to resist the revolutionary madcaps of Paris. The animus of the latter is indicated by the complaint of their organ that rural influence predominates in the French Chambers, and by the earnestness with which it contends that Paris must be the capital of France.

The best hope of Republicanism and of liberal and constitutional government is based on the complete triumph of M. Thiers in the present controversy; and if, after achieving such a victory, he acts wisely, honestly, and patriotically, he will render inestimable service to his unhappy country.

GOVERNOR HOLDEN, of North Carolina, has been convicted on eight articles of impeachment, and an order has been passed removing him from office. More than two-thirds of the judges in this case were Conservative Senators, but on several articles four or five Republicans voted with them, so that there seems to be good reason for believing that Holden was guilty of improper acts.

SENATOR SUMNER has been invited to a banquet by a number of his personal and political friends in this city, and in answer to the letter of invitation he has written that he will be compelled to decline. The public will thus lose an oration from Mr. Sumner on the question of his removal from the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, as he would undoubtedly have been expected to speak upon this subject if the banquet had taken place.

STURDY BEN WADE settles all the doubts arising from the allegation that some of the Dominicans are hostile to annexation by denouncing their leader, Cabral, as a "chicken-thief." This accusation is, of course, conclusive; and chicken-thieves of all colors, countries, and races who presume to question the wisdom of any policy favored by the American Government should note how readily their opposition can be extinguished.

NOTICES.

THE PEOPLE ALWAYS FIND our Prices the Lowest, our Stock the Largest, and our Men's and Boys' Clothing vastly superior to ordinary Ready-made Clothing. Our stock is fresh, being just made up, and we can afford to sell at unusually low prices, on account of having purchased enormous bills of goods from first hands at a heavy discount, on the already low market rates.

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NOTICE—THE COPARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE existing between J. A. BLAKE, C. M. BOWEN, W. F. JACKSON, and J. T. JACKSON, under the name of J. A. BLAKE & CO., is dissolved this day. The business will be settled up by the undersigned. J. A. BLAKE, No. 1907 MARKET Street. 315 Walnut St. March 20, 1871.

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EXPOSE OF THE BRANCH MILTON GOLD JEWELRY. READ AND JUDGE. If the public will like to know where the pretended company get their jewelry from, we would refer them to Elias, of the Dollar Store. If on oath, I think the world state that he buys most of the goods in ATTLEBORO, Mass. (this is his ENGLAND, or ENGLISH GOLD), and his agents in New York. To make the proof doubly sure, yesterday we sent the following telegram to J. F. Hopkinson & Co., manufacturers of Cheap Jewelry, No. 191 Broadway, N. Y.:—

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